

# RESPONSE-RECOVERY-RESILIENCE FOR CONFLICT AFFECTED COMMUNITIES IN ETHIOPIA (3R4CACE)

IMPROVING ACCESS TO GBV RESPONSE SERVICES IN TIGRAY REGION

## ANNUAL FACTSHEET - 2023

### BACKGROUND

In May 2022, the World Bank allocated a \$300 million grant to aid conflict-affected communities in Ethiopia, aiming to help the country's education, health, water supply, and other sectors recover from a devastating two-year conflict. Notably, the grant included a component specifically dedicated to improving access to response services for survivors of Gender-Based Violence (GBV) across the country, including the Tigray region.

While a peace agreement between the Ethiopian government and the Tigray People's Liberation Front was later signed in November 2022, representing a positive development, women and girls in the Tigray region continue to disproportionately shoulder the burdens of the conflict's lingering effects. These include persistent drought, a dire economic situation, and limited access to crucial social support services. This challenging environment has unfortunately led to increased risks and incidents of GBV in internally displaced persons (IDP) camps, host communities, and areas of return.

The weakened healthcare system and justice mechanisms further exacerbate this crisis, making it even more difficult for survivors to access essential support and hold perpetrators accountable.

#### AT A GLANCE:



**Tigray Region**



**Two-year project**



**USD 15.1 MILLION**



**Woredas covered**

# OVERVIEW

Component two of the "Response-Recovery-Resilience for Conflict-Affected Communities in Ethiopia Project" focuses on enhancing access to gender-based violence (GBV) response services in the Tigray region. This initiative, owned by the Government of Ethiopia, aims to deliver essential services and assistance to GBV survivors, with funding provided by the World Bank. The project is implemented by the Ministry of Women and Social Affairs, with the support of UNOPS and UNFPA, as the global technical lead agency for GBV programming and coordination.

**1 INCREASING ACCESS TO LIFESAVING GBV SERVICES THROUGH ONE-STOP CENTERS, SAFE HOUSES, WOMEN AND GIRLS' FRIENDLY SPACES**

**2 ADDRESS DRIVERS AND RISK FACTORS THAT CONTRIBUTE TO THE ACCEPTANCE AND PERPETUATION OF GBV AND THAT MAY BE EXACERBATED BY CONFLICT, CLIMATE HAZARDS, OR OTHER RELATED SHOCKS**

**3 SUPPORT THE COORDINATION, POLICY DEVELOPMENT, AND RESEARCH FOR GBV PREVENTION AND RESPONSE.**

## KEY ACHIVEMENTS IN 2023



**36,776**

Women and girls benefited from the provision of dignity kits to support their personal hygiene needs.



**272,645**

Individuals reached through awareness-raising and community mobilization for social behavior change on GBV.



**64**

Health facilities equipped with supplies, drugs, and commodities for GBV service provision.



**140,232**

Women and girls engaged in various services through **10 WGFS fully operational** across the region.



**7**

One-Stop Centers (OSCs) strengthened and supported to provide comprehensive GBV services.



**980**

Service providers trained in various GBV-related topics in line with the standards of survivor-centered care.



**2**

Safe houses upgraded and providing long-term recovery services to GBV survivors.



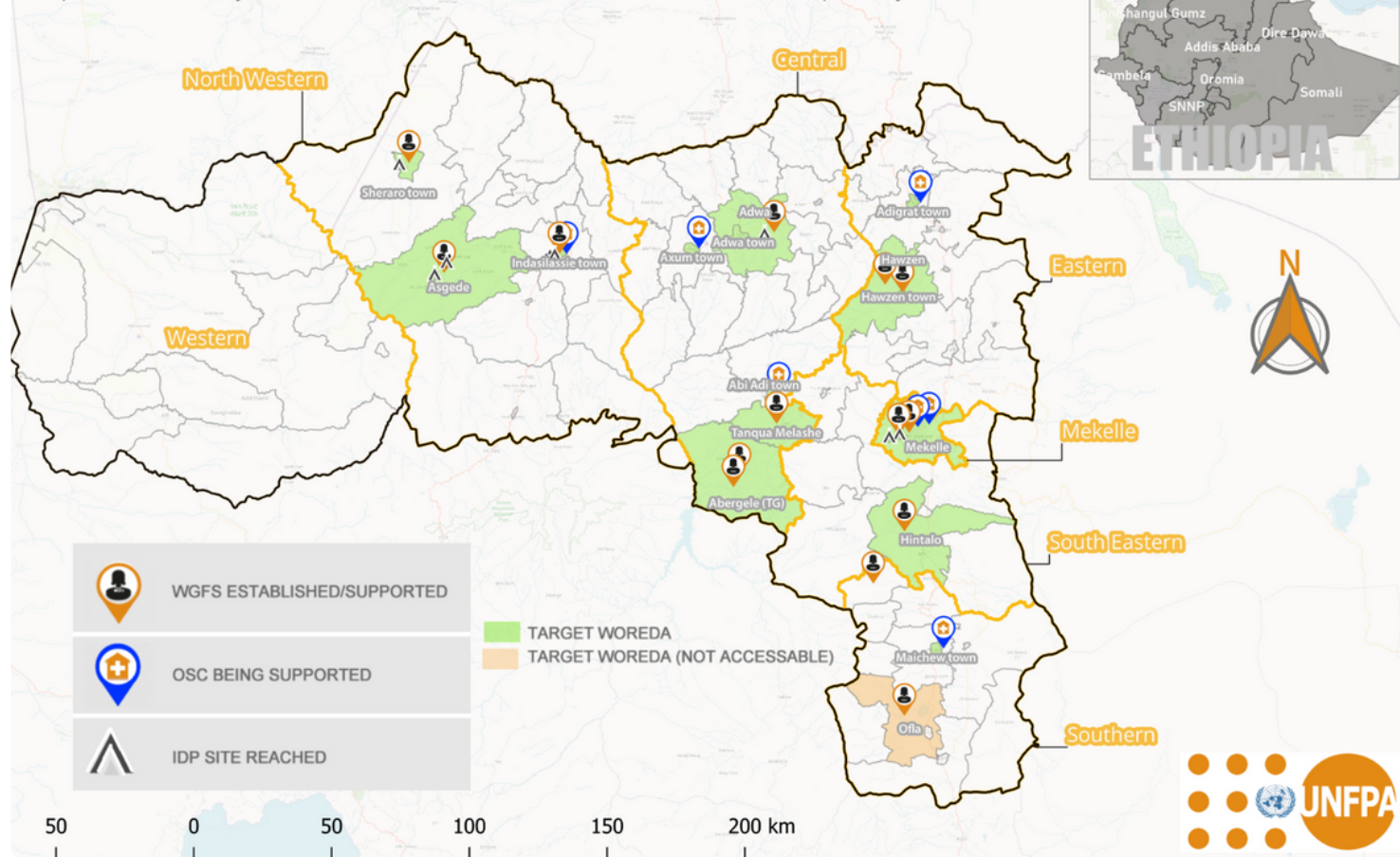
**6**

GBV Area of Responsibility (AoR) coordination mechanisms functioning for better GBV prevention and response at zonal level.

## PROJECT INTERVENTION SITES OVERVIEW - TIGRAY REGION

Response - Recovery - Resilience for Conflict-Affected Communities in Ethiopia Project

3



## BEST PRACTICES & LESSONS LEARNED

- Women and Girls' Friendly Spaces reach initially limited:** The initial low visitor numbers stemmed from a lack of awareness and misconceptions that the services were exclusively for survivors. In the last two quarters, the deployment of midwives at WGFS, coupled with targeted outreach, has significantly enhanced accessibility. This improvement can be attributed to intensified awareness campaigns by partners and government entities. Furthermore, the introduction of Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH) services within WGFS not only provided a secure meeting space for women but also ensured their access to crucial reproductive health information and services.
- Assisting GBV responders:** Frontline service providers experienced a higher burnout rate, which was mitigated through stress management training, equipping them with coping skills. Additionally, Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) debriefing was implemented to help address vicarious trauma and combat burnout among these responders.
- Strengthened One-Stop Centers (OSCs):** The service provision at OSCs has been bolstered through the addition of extra midwives and MHPSS specialists. This upgrade not only promotes survivors' access to 24/7 services but also ensures resource sustainability by deploy midwives already integrated into the facility.
- Community-led change:** Community structures like women's groups and religious leaders identified through various engagements are being leveraged to boost diverse community outreach and support efforts to prevent GBV and harmful practices.
- Empowering survivors:** Rehabilitation and reintegration for survivors has been promoted through skills building and small grants. This holistic approach ensures they not only regain their confidence and esteem but also actively contribute to their communities, fostering a path towards sustained recovery. The potential for further strengthening exists if the project extends beyond December 2023, promising continued positive outcomes in survivors' lives.



## KEY HIGHLIGHTS



UNFPA, in collaboration with the Bureau of Women's Affairs, commenced a **16-day campaign in Mekelle, Adigrat, and Shire**, galvanizing action against gender-based violence. Roundtable discussions involving religious leaders, media representatives, and law enforcement officials amplified the campaign's message, creating a platform for engagement with relevant stakeholders.

In 2023, an additional **Safe House** was established to strengthen GBV service provision for survivors in the region. This was essential to ensure survivors from one of the most affected zones and the surrounding areas have access to timely, life-saving GBV services.



The **Abi-Adi One-Stop center** underwent an upgrade in May 2023, aligning with the minimal standards for service provision. The center expanded from three rooms within the maternity ward at Abi-Adi General Hospital to seven service rooms. The project included support for the deployment of clinical care providers, facilitation of referrals through cash support, provision of medical equipment, and distribution of dignity kits.

Through this project, UNFPA was able to extend its **reach to hard-to-reach areas where no other GBV partners were operational**. This included locations such as Tanqua Melashe, Yechila Abergele, Adi Mohamedai, and Sheraro.



UNFPA initiated the use of **SASA! Together** to mobilize communities for the prevention of Gender-Based Violence and to transform community attitudes, norms, and behaviors related to GBV. The introduction of SASA! Together to the Tigray region in 2023, capacitate 30 trainers, including government officials, and implementing partners. The training was subsequently cascaded to over 60 community mobilizers, enhancing the communities' capacity to address and prevent GBV.

## Our Partners

